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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16869P-037300US
Client Ref. No.: 210000604US1

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

On 1/13/03

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Nina Elzinger



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Makoto Ono, et al.

Application No.: 10/004,168

Filed: October 30, 2001

For: INSPECTION SYSTEM AND
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE
MANUFACTURING METHOD

Examiner: Stacy Whitmore

Art Unit: 2812

ELECTION OF CLAIMS IN RESPONSE
TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to a restriction requirement mailed December 11, 2002, Applicant elects to continue prosecution on a species of the invention as recited in the Group I claims 21, 27, 28, 31, and 36 - 38. Accordingly, please cancel claims 22, 25, 29, 32, 23, 26, 30, 33 - 35, and 39 - 41 without prejudice. It is understood that the canceled claims can be pursued in a subsequent application filed during the pendency of the instant application.

It appears that the disposition of claim 24 was inadvertently omitted in the Office action. Since claim 24 depends from claim 21, it is believed to belong to the Group I claims.

The pending claims are 21, 24, 27, 28, 31, and 36 - 38.